

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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“MICHIGAN COURTS” WEBSITE DEBUTS TODAY; IMPROVED ORGANIZATION, GOOGLE-POWERED SEARCH ENGINE ARE FEATURES

LANSING, MI, November 16, 2005 -- Information about Michigan’s courts will be easier to find on the newly-redesigned “Michigan Courts” website, the Michigan Supreme Court has announced.

The site offers a wide variety of information, including Michigan court rules, court forms, Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, and a legal self-help feature.

The website was reorganized to make information more accessible to the public, explained State Court Administrator Carl L. Gromek.

“We already had a wealth of information on the website, but much of it was grouped under ‘Michigan Supreme Court,’ ‘Michigan Court of Appeals,’ ‘State Court Administrative Office,’ or another agency name,” Gromek said. “The website assumed that the user already understood how the judicial branch is organized. The new website is organized by subject matter so that the information is easier to find.”

Visitors to the new “Michigan Courts” website will notice that the site is organized by “Court and Public Resources,” “Legal Community” and “Press and Media,” with a number of features under each category. “Press and Media,” for example, includes links to Supreme Court press releases and compilations of legal news items. “Court and Public Resources” lists many features, including links to Michigan laws, court rules and court forms. Website users can sign up for free e-mail delivery of Michigan Supreme Court opinions and orders, and Michigan Court of Appeals opinions.

The site retains direct links to sites for the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, and others. The site also offers a Google search engine.

“Our goal is to help the people of Michigan have more and better information about the legal system,” said Gromek. “Fortunately, the technology is there to assist us.”

A variety of educational resources are featured on the “Michigan Courts” website, including the Supreme Court Learning Center, which offers special programs for children studying the justice system. A wide variety of court forms are also available online for use in civil cases, adoption, garnishment, landlord and tenant, personal protection orders, small claims, trusts and estates, and many more types of legal matters.

Visit the “Michigan Courts” website at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/index.htm>.

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